AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-39 (Cancelled)

Claim 40 (New)   A data input apparatus comprising:

a displaying means including a data display area for displaying data and/or a blinking cursor;

a first operating means for receiving an input of numerical data and/or character data and for displaying the received input on the data display area of the displaying means;

a second operating means for executing an operation other than receiving an input of numerical data and/or character data;

an inducing means for displaying an induction mark by controlling an on/off state of the induction mark, the induction mark for drawing a user's attention to the first operating means when an input is required by the first operating means, and the induction mark including a figure representing a shape of the first operating means and a figure indicating a location of the first operating means with respect to the induction mark; and

a cursor displaying means for displaying the blinking cursor on the data display area of the displaying means,

wherein, when the input is required by the first operating means, the inducing means (i) controls the on/off state of the induction mark such that the induction mark blinks at a predetermined rate and (ii) synchronizes blinking of the blinking cursor and the induction mark,

wherein, when the first operating means receives the required input, the inducing means controls the on/off state of the induction mark such that the induction mark is not blinking, and

wherein the induction mark, the first operating means, and the blinking cursor are arranged such that a distance between the induction mark and the first operating means is less than a distance between the blinking cursor and the first operating means, and, from the user's point of view, the first operating means is located to the right of the induction mark and the blinking cursor.

Claim 41 (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the displaying means includes an induction mark area for displaying the induction mark when the on/off state of the induction mark is controlled by the inducing means.

Claim 42 (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the induction mark area of the displaying means is disposed closer to the first operating means than to the middle of the displaying means.

Claim 43 (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 40, wherein, when the numerical data and/or the character data is displayed on the displaying means, the inducing means controls the on/off state of the induction mark such that the induction mark is not blinking.

Claim 44 (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the inducing means turns on a light of the induction mark after the inducing means stops the induction mark from blinking.

Claim 45 (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the inducing means turns off a light of the induction mark when an operation of the first operating means is completed.

Claim 46 (New) The data input apparatus according to claim 40, wherein, when an input is no longer required by the first operating means, the inducing means controls the on/off state of the induction mark such that the induction mark remains in the off state.

Claim 47 (New) A data input program recorded on a computer-readable recording medium, the data input program for use with a computer having an induction mark, a first operating means, and a blinking cursor arranged such that a distance between the induction mark and the first operating means is less than a distance between the blinking cursor and the first operating

means, and arranged such that, from a user's point of view, the first operating means is located to the right of the induction mark and the blinking cursor, the induction mark including a figure representing a shape of the first operating means and a figure indicating a location of the first operating means with respect to the induction mark, and the data input program for causing the computer to execute a method comprising:

receiving, into a second operating means, an input other than numerical data and/or character data;

drawing the user's attention to the first operating means, when an input of numerical data and/or character data is required by the first operating means, using an inducing means to (i) control an on/off state of the induction mark such that the induction mark blinks at a predetermined rate, and (ii) synchronize blinking of the blinking cursor and the induction mark;

receiving, after said drawing of the user's attention, the required input of the numerical data and/or the character data into the first operating means and displaying the received required input on a data display area of the displaying means when receiving the required input; and

after said receiving of the required input, controlling the on/off state of the induction mark with the inducing means such that the induction mark is not blinking.

Claim 48 (New)   A data input method for use with an apparatus having an induction mark, a first operating means, and a blinking cursor arranged such that a distance between the induction mark and the first operating means is less than a distance between the blinking cursor and the first operating means, and arranged such that, from a user's point of view, the first operating means is located to the right of the induction mark and the blinking cursor, the induction mark including a figure representing a shape of the first operating means and a figure indicating a location of the first operating means with respect to the induction mark, the data input method comprising:

receiving, into a second operating means, an input other than numerical data and/or character data;

drawing the user's attention to the first operating means, when an input of numerical data and/or character data is required by the first operating means, using an inducing means to (i)

control an on/off state of the induction mark such that the induction mark blinks at a predetermined rate, and (ii) synchronize blinking of the blinking cursor and the induction mark;

receiving, after said drawing of the user's attention, the required input of the numerical data and/or the character data into the first operating means and displaying the received required input on a data display area of the displaying means when receiving the required input; and

after said receiving of the required input, controlling the on/off state of the induction mark with the inducing means such that the induction mark is not blinking.